(e) the steps taken in that matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (e) In the context of paucity of resources in the Public Sector for capacity addition in power generation and distribution, a policy to encourage private sector participation in power generation, supply and distribution was formulated in October, 1991. The policy is amended from time to time keeping in view the changing requirements.

Decline in the share of Hydro-Power Generation

772. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of installed hydro-power generation capacity in the total power generation capacity in the country has come down and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the remedial steps taken in this regard during the last two years and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The share of hydroelectric potential in the total installed capacity of the country was 50.62% in 1963 and has thereafter declined to 25.19%. As on 31.3.1996 the installed capacity of hydro projects is 20976.09 MW out of the total installed capacity of 83287.96 MW. Some of the issues which have retarded the pace of progress of the hydro projects are resource crunch and cash flow problem, rehabilitation problems, land acquisition problem, law and order aspects, dearth of good contractors, inter-state aspects and environmental consideration.

(b) Some of the special measures taken by the Government towards harnessing the hydro potential are modification in the financial, administrative and legal procedures to attract private investment, creation of central/joint sector corporations, increase in outlay for development of hydro projects, increase in budgetary allocation for central/joint sector projects and arranging funds for hydel projects through external assistance.

Employment Assurance Scheme in Gujarat

773. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has been extended to all the blocks of Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if answer to part(a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when all the blocks in the State are likely to be covered under EAS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has been extended to 162 blocks of the State out of the total 199 uncovered blocks. The remaining 37 blocks are proposed to be covered under the EAS during 1997-98.

Deadline for Power Companies to submit Project Report

774. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set a deadline for power companies to submit their detailed reports by March 13, 1997;

(b) if so, what is the number of companies which have submitted their project so far; and